

Edited by Robert Shanks



Seasons Greetings t from the Blackburn Leisure Astronomical Society.



Blasted by lunar dust in the jet wash from the Ascent Propulsion System from [Apollo 17](#)'s Lunar Module Challenger, the above left image records the last humans leaving our moon in December 1972. Fifty years on and [Artemis](#) (sister of Apollo), depicted top right, sends her son Orion around the moon and safely back to Earth to prove (in true [Apollo 8](#) mission style), that she is ready to take mankind back to the moon, Mars and beyond in order to fulfil the next chapter in humanities exploration of the cosmos.

A warm welcome to our membership and friends, especially those who have joined us in the last year or so. Not only do we look forward to Artemis



returning humans to the moon, but we are 'over the moon!' with our current funding. Thanks to member David Kitching, seen left presenting a cheque to George King, we are pleased to announce a substantial boost to BLAS funds. George King said "Thanks to David and JTL Training, we can now upgrade the main Projector and the display screen to show our visitors in modern clarity, just how small we are in this vast universe". A big Thank You to all our recent sponsors including JTL Training for recognising our BLAS contribution to STEM for all.

Thanks to Our Sponsors

The development of the observatory would not have been possible with the generous help support and extra contributions from our members, and from...

The National Lottery

Elloughton-cum-Brough Town Council



The Atkinson Foundation



RM Motors



JTL Training



And the support of Blackburn Leisure..



2022 A Bumper Year for
Visitors!

On the subject of visitors to BLAS, up to December 20th, 1,233 people have visited since we re-opened our doors. This includes a steady stream of first-time visitors on Friday Open Nights, other groups including footballers, some 15 Scouts and Guides groups of all age ranges from Rainbows and

Beavers to Guides and Scouts and a group of a dozen Scout Leaders! Brian Davies said "This brings our total to over 6,600 since 2016, despite the extensive building programme and the Covid lockdowns! Thanks to all those who have visited and contributed to this effort". It is thanks to this great work that BLAS is able to attract and sustain funding to continue opening up Astronomy to all. Our first visitors for 2023 will include Patrington Scouts (date TBC) for January or February.

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Taken during November, Brian Davies reminds us all with the left hand image, just what is achievable via a mobile phone through the 80mm telescope. Click [here](#) to see the image full size.

Whilst we wait for Artemis to deliver us the next round of pictures from the moon, why not treat yourself to [Andy Saunders Apollo Re-mastered](#). This 456 page amazing book, currently half price in Waterstones contains hundreds of digitally remastered images from

the lunar landings as you have never seen them before.



This years Christmas meal will take place on Friday 27th Jan in the Blackburn Leisure club. **Please confirm your places with George no later than Jan 5th.** Please also remember to bring items for the raffle entry.

Picture of the month

Credit to Rob Kingdom this month for his photograph Jupiter featured below. Click [here](#) to see the image full size. With Mars in [opposition](#) in the night sky, no-one could miss our Mars in the night sky in December and we look forward to members images being presented at our next meeting (23rd January 2023).

CHRISTMAS MEAL	
Friday 27 th January	
STARTER	
Home made Leek and Potato Soup with Bread roll	
Pate, French toast with Salad garnish	
MAIN	
Home made Steak and Ale pie, Chips, and Peas	
Pork, Stuffing, Mashed potato, Vegetables, and Gravy	
DESSERTS	
Jam roly poly with Custard	
Chocolate Gateau and Cream	
PLUS	
Tea or Coffee with Mints.	
£20.00 per head	



....Wishing all our members, friends & families all the very best for 2023